

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 5, 2012

## Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 63

Introduced by Senator Gaines

February 9, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63—Relative to Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 63, as amended, Gaines. Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would designate the month of September 2012 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in the State of California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that one  
2 in six men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime.  
3 Approximately 241,740 new cases of the disease in the United  
4 States are predicted for 2012, which would result in nearly 28,170  
5 deaths; and

6 WHEREAS, In California, prostate cancer is the most common  
7 cancer among men in ~~all-race~~ *most racial* and ethnic groups.  
8 African American men are at especially high risk for prostate  
9 cancer; and

10 WHEREAS, In California, approximately ~~23,410~~ 20,200 men  
11 are predicted to be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2012, and,  
12 of this number, approximately ~~3,110~~ 3,090 men are predicted to  
13 die of this disease; and

1 WHEREAS, California is home to approximately ~~621,336~~  
2 ~~621,340~~ Vietnam-era veterans, the largest population of Vietnam  
3 War-era veterans in the country; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2008, physicians at the UC Davis Cancer Center  
5 released results showing that Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent  
6 Orange have greatly increased risks of prostate cancer and even  
7 greater risks of getting the most aggressive form of the disease,  
8 and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has  
9 determined that if a veteran served in Vietnam and has prostate  
10 cancer, it is presumed that the cancer is a result of that veteran's  
11 service; and

12 WHEREAS, While prostate cancer is a leading cause of cancer  
13 deaths in men, little is known about this disease and there are  
14 usually no symptoms in the early stages; and

15 WHEREAS, The survival rate approaches 100 percent when  
16 prostate cancer is diagnosed and treated early, but drops to 29  
17 percent when the disease spreads to other parts of the body; and

18 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society recommends that  
19 health care providers offer a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood  
20 test and a digital rectal examination (DRE) annually to men who  
21 have at least a 10-year life expectancy, beginning when the men  
22 are 50 years of age; and

23 WHEREAS, Men in high-risk groups, such as African American  
24 men or those with brothers or fathers who have had prostate cancer,  
25 should be offered a PSA and DRE beginning when they are 45  
26 years of age; and

27 WHEREAS, Men who have multiple family members who were  
28 diagnosed with prostate cancer at an early age should consult with  
29 their health care provider about prostate cancer screening beginning  
30 when they are 40 years of age; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
32 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of  
33 September 2012 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in the State  
34 of California and encourages public officials and citizens of  
35 California to observe the month with appropriate activities and  
36 programs; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Legislature joins communities across our  
38 nation to increase the awareness of the importance of early  
39 detection and treatment of prostate cancer; and be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2     this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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